

1       1. A method comprising:  
2               forming an arrayed waveguide grating including an  
3       output slab waveguide coupled to a pair of output  
4       waveguides coupled to a directional coupler.

1       2. The method of claim 1, including coupling a  
2       directional coupler to said output slab waveguide and  
3       coupling a pair of first and second output waveguides  
4       between said output slab waveguide and directional coupler.

1       3. The method of claim 2 including making the  
2       primary channel spacing between paired first and second  
3       waveguides coupled to the same coupler different than the  
4       secondary channel spacing between the first waveguides  
5       coupled to different but adjacent couplers.

1       4. The method of claim 3 including making the  
2       secondary channel spacing greater than the primary channel  
3       spacing.

1       5. The method of claim 1, including forming the  
2       pairs of waveguides with a length difference of  
3       approximately  $(2m+1)\lambda_c/4n_{eff}$ , where m is an integer,  $\lambda_c$  is  
4       the average center wavelength, and  $n_{eff}$  is the effective  
5       refractive index of the waveguides.

1       6.    The method of claim 1 including forming said  
2 grating on a planar light circuit.

1       7.    The method of claim 1 including creating output  
2 signals having a flat spectral shape.

1       8.    An arrayed waveguide grating comprising:  
2            an input and an output waveguide;  
3            a waveguide array;  
4            an output slab waveguide coupled to said array  
5 and said output waveguides; and  
6            a directional coupler coupled to two output  
7 waveguides also coupled to said slab waveguide.

1       9.    The grating of claim 8 wherein said output  
2 waveguides coupled to the same coupler have a length  
3 difference of approximately  $(2m+1)\lambda_c/4n_{eff}$ , where m is an  
4 integer,  $\lambda_c$  is the average center wavelength, and  $n_{eff}$  is the  
5 effective refractive index of the two successive  
6 waveguides.

1       10.   The grating of claim 8 wherein said grating is  
2 formed on a planar light circuit.

1       11.   The grating of claim 8 wherein said grating  
2 creates output signals having a flat spectral shape.

1           12. The grating of claim 8 wherein said grating is a  
2 multiplexer.

1           13. The grating of claim 8 wherein said grating is a  
2 demultiplexer.

1           14. The grating of claim 8 including a directional  
2 coupler, which is coupled by a first and a second output  
3 waveguide to said output slab waveguide.

1           15. The grating of claim 14 wherein a primary channel  
2 spacing between output waveguides coupled to the first  
3 directional coupler is less than a secondary channel  
4 spacing between a first output waveguide coupled to a first  
5 directional coupler and a first output waveguide coupled to  
6 a second directional coupler.

1           16. The grating of claim 15 wherein the primary  
2 channel spacing is about one quarter of the secondary  
3 channel spacing.

1           17. A method comprising:  
2                   filtering a signal using an arrayed waveguide  
3 grating; and  
4                   adjusting the spacing between successive  
5 waveguides to generate a flat spectral output wave form.

1        18. The method of claim 17 including forming an  
2 arrayed waveguide grating having an output waveguide  
3 coupler coupled to a pair of output waveguides having a  
4 length difference of approximately  $(2m+1)\lambda_c/4n_{eff}$ , where m is  
5 an integer,  $\lambda_c$  is the average center wavelength, and  $n_{eff}$  is  
6 the effective refractive index of the two successive  
7 waveguides.

1        19. The method of claim 17 including forming the  
2 grating on a planar light circuit.

1        20. The method of claim 17 including forming a  
2 demultiplexer.

1        21. The method of claim 17 including forming a  
2 multiplexer.

1        22. An optical filter comprising:  
2            an input and output waveguide coupler; and  
3            a waveguide pair coupled to said output waveguide  
4 coupler, said waveguide pair having a length difference  
5 such that a flat spectral output signal is produced.

1        23. The method of claim 22 including forming said  
2 pair having a length difference of approximately  
3  $(2m+1)\lambda_c/4n_{eff}$ , where m is an integer,  $\lambda_c$  is the average

4 center wavelength, and  $n_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective refractive  
5 index of the two successive waveguides.

1 24. The filter of claim 23 wherein said filter is a  
2 demultiplexer.

1 25. The filter of claim 23 wherein said filter is a  
2 multiplexer.

1 26. The filter of claim 22 wherein said filter is  
2 formed as a planar light circuit.

1 27. The filter of claim 22 including a directional  
2 coupler coupled to said pair.

1 28. The filter of claim 22 including a plurality of  
2 waveguide pairs coupled to said output waveguide coupler.

1 29. A method comprising:  
2 forming an arrayed waveguide grating including an  
3 output slab waveguide coupled to a first and second output  
4 waveguide coupled to a multi-mode interference coupler.

1 30. The method of claim 29 including coupling a  
2 multi-mode interference coupler to said output slab  
3 waveguides and coupling the first and second output

4 waveguides between said output slab waveguide and said  
5 multi-mode interference coupler.

1 31. The method of claim 30 including making the  
2 primary channel spacing between the first and second  
3 waveguides coupled to the same coupler different than the  
4 secondary channel spacing between the first and a third  
5 waveguide coupled to different but adjacent couplers.

1 32. The method of claim 31 including making the  
2 secondary channel spacing greater than the primary channel  
3 spacing.

1 33. An arrayed waveguide grating comprising:  
2 a waveguide array;  
3 an output slab waveguide coupled to said array;  
4 and  
5 a multi-mode interference coupler coupled to a  
6 first and a second output waveguide also coupled to said  
7 slab waveguide.

1 34. The grating of claim 33 including a pair of  
2 multi-mode interference couplers, one coupler coupled to  
3 the first and second output waveguides, a third and fourth  
4 output waveguides, the other coupler coupled to said third  
5 and fourth output waveguides.

1           35. The grating of claim 34 wherein a primary channel  
2 spacing between the first and second output waveguides is  
3 less than a secondary channel spacing between the first  
4 output waveguide and the third output waveguide.